

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Potential High-Cost Areas for Next)	
Generation Network Experiments)	WC Docket No. 10-90
)	

“EXPRESSION OF INTEREST”
OREGON-IDAHO UTILITIES, INC.

Oregon-Idaho Utilities (OIU) files its “Expression of Interest” in this proceeding pursuant to the Public Notice released by the Commission on February 6, 2014 (DA 14-154). In the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission proposes to make available in any part of the country, whether served by an incumbent price cap carrier or rate-of-return carrier, a limited amount of Connect America Funds to entities willing to deploy robust, scalable broadband to high-cost areas.

OIU is an incumbent Rural Local Exchange Carrier and an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier for its rural service areas in Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada. It serves a combined 1,475 access lines over 11,350 square miles in the states of Oregon, Idaho, and Nevada. OIU is dedicated to serving the communication needs of this sparsely populated and remote high-cost service area in the mountainous regions of Southeastern Oregon, Southwestern Idaho and Northern Nevada. OIU’s roots remain established in providing reliable, high-speed communications services to our customers.

Geographic Territory

OIU's "Broadband Experiment" involves placing fiber optic facilities for the benefit of our customers in the following Census Tracts: Malheur County Oregon Nos. 410459707, 410459709; Owyhee County Idaho No. 160769502; Humboldt County Nevada Nos. 320130105, 320130106, and Elko County Nevada No. 320079517

"Anchor Institutions"

A partial list of Anchor institutions in our serving areas includes:

In Oregon

Jordan Valley High School
Jordan Valley Grade School
Rockville Grade School (one room school house)
Arock Grade School
Jordan Valley State Highway Maintenance Yard
Basque Camp Highway Maintenance Yard
Jordan Valley BLM Field Station
Rome BLM Field Station
Burns Junction BLM Field Station
Quinn BLM Field Station
Jordan Valley State Highway Patrol
Burns Junction State Highway Weigh Station
Arock Post Office
Jordan Valley Post Office
Lake Owyhee State Park

In Idaho

Pleasant Valley Grade School
Owyhee County Highway Maintenance Yard

In Nevada

McDermitt High School
Orovada Grade School
Paradise Valley Grade School
Kings River School
Denio School
McDermitt BLM Field Station

“Anchor Institutions” (continued)

In Nevada (continued)

McDermitt Community Center
Orovada State Highway Maintenance Yard
Quinn River State Highway Maintenance Yard
Sheldon Wildlife Range Federal Department of Fish and Game
Paradise Valley Forest Service Office
Paradise Valley Post Office
Orovada Post Office
Denio Post Office
McDermitt Post Office
Humboldt County Sheriff’s Sub Station McDermitt

Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Reservation in Nevada

Fort McDermitt Tribal Offices
Fort McDermitt Health Services
Fort McDermitt Senior Center
Fort McDermitt Head Start program
Fort McDermitt Tribal Court
Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Police Field Office

Statement of Project Need

OIU began offering Broadband internet access in early 2007. Since that time, our customer count and therefore our need for greater middle mile internet bandwidth connectivity have increased steadily. Unfortunately our current middle mile internet backbone provider (CenturyLink) has informed us that we have reached the upper limit for middle mile internet bandwidth connectivity they can offer to us. To date they have been unable to put forth any plan to increase their bandwidth capabilities to interconnect with us. Because of this limitation, OIU has searched for alternate means of upstream connectivity. Our search culminated in discussions with Syringa Networks in southwestern Idaho. Syringa Networks has the capability to provide greater upstream capacity to OIU. In order to utilize this new resource, OIU will have to place new fiber optic facilities to interconnect with Syringa utilizing fast ethernet and IP technologies.

In the last 5 years OIU has re-invested in ourselves by installing a substantial amount of IP based equipment and technology within our communications systems. In 2010 we began by creating a Gigabit ethernet interoffice backbone between central offices in Oregon for the transport of DSL and FTTP traffic. In 2013 we replaced our legacy TDM based voice switches with new Genband C15 VOIP/TDM based voice switches. This new switching network utilizes IP transport between sites over our existing Gigabit ethernet backbone. In 2014 we are upgrading our existing Gigabit ethernet backbone in Oregon to a 10 Gigabit ethernet backbone and extending that backbone into Nevada. We are also creating Gigabit ethernet links between our main 10 Gigabit ethernet node sites and some of our more remote exchanges and offices. This increased ethernet capacity will transport DSL, FTTP, NECA based ethernet transport services, and VOIP based interoffice switching traffic.

In order to further leverage our investment in our network and provide new IP based services for our customers, OIU needs to create a new IP based ethernet upstream interconnect. Having this new upstream IP facility will enable OIU to negotiate with and connect to new IP based service providers. OIU will then be able to offer new IP based communications solutions and our legacy TDM based offerings coincidentally. In the role of an “open access” common carrier, the new fiber would include opportunities for increased Internet backbone connectivity for other broadband communications providers operating within and/or near our serving areas.

Proposed Technology / Scalability

OIU proposes to construct a total of approximately 46.8 Miles of Fiber Optic Cable, in two separate projects. The Northern project includes approximately 26.8 miles of new fiber optic facilities in the states of Oregon and Idaho. This section of the project will connect OIU's

existing fiber network with Syringa's network in Southwestern Idaho creating the new interconnect. We will then utilize our existing ethernet transport equipment over this new fiber to connect our existing ethernet backbone to our new upstream provider.

The Southern expansion allows OIU to extend its fiber optic facilities 20.0 miles further south towards Winnemucca, Nevada. This second project will allow OIU to extend our ethernet backbone capacity and provide opportunities for new Nevada customers and providers.

Project Time Line

OIU estimates that engineering, permitting, and construction for both sections will take about 1 year to complete.

Total Project Cost

Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc. seeks a one-time support amount equal to the estimated cost of the project amounting to \$1.17 Million.

Respectfully submitted,
Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc.

By: s/ Doug Musgrave
General Manager

March 20, 2014